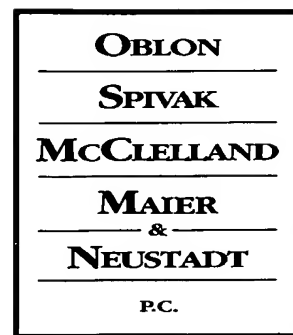




Docket No.: 251697US0

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

RE: Application Serial No.: 10/820,714
Applicants: Mitsuyoshi OKUDA, et al.
Filing Date: April 9, 2004
For: ALKALINE PROTEASE
Group Art Unit: 1656
Examiner: Clark

SIR:

Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

Election and Response to Restriction Requirement

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon

Thomas M. Cunningham

Registration No. 45,394

Customer Number

22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

DOCKET NO: 251697US0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
MITSUYOSHI OKUDA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: CLARK
SERIAL NO: 10/820,714 :
FILED: APRIL 9, 2004 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1656
FOR: ALKALINE PROTEASE :

ELECTION AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed January 19, 2006, the Applicants elect with traverse, **Group I**, Claims 1 and 2.

The Applicants further elect with traverse the species of polypeptide having SEQ ID NO: 1 except that (a) (position 15) is substituted with histidine (His). That is, the elected species conforms to SEQ ID NO: 1, except at position 15 which is substituted with histidine.

The traverse is on the grounds that the claims of Groups I and III embrace the same subject matter, namely, mutant alkaline proteases and product and composition claims comprising the same products should be examined together.

Secondly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of Groups I, II and III could be examined together without imposing an undue burden on the Examiner. For example, even though polypeptides and nucleic acids have different structures, the genetic code provides an easy way to make corresponding searches of polypeptide and nucleic acid sequences of Groups I and II, respectively.

Moreover, with respect to the election of species requirement, the Applicants submit that no undue burden would be imposed, since each species has a significant degree of structural similarity to the other species. However, if this requirement is maintained, the Applicants understand that additional species will be examined upon an indication of allowability for the generic claims as they read on the presently elected species.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn, especially between the claims of Groups I and III, and that all of the claims be examined simultaneously.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220


(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Norman F. Oblon



Thomas M. Cunningham

Attorney of Record

Registration No. 45,394